

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, 6-21, 24, 25, 27-28, 37-41 and 81 were pending prior to this amendment. In the office action of April 10, 2007, the examiner indicated the allowability of claim 81. In the present amendment, applicants have made claim 81 the single independent claim in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 18, 37, 39, and 41 have all been amended to depend from allowed claim 81. Claims 1, 15, 24, 25, 27, and 28 40 are cancelled in this amendment.

Thus the now pending claims are allowed claim 81, and claims 2-4, 6-14, 16-21, 37-39, and 41, each depending directly or indirectly from claim 81.

Dependent claims 2, 3, 7, 10-14, 16-18, 19 and 41 have been amended to comport with the claim language of claim 81 and/or to correct minor errors in the claim language.

Applicant has submitted herewith a Request for Continued Examination. This RCE is filed to bring to the examiner's attention two co-pending applications also owned by assignee of the present application, both of which were filed after the filing of the present application: US Serial Nos. 10/509,466 and 10/509,465, both filed September 28, 2004. Further, the RCE will allow consideration of the claims as amended, and will facilitate the examiner's consideration of the attached Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement.

Favorable consideration of this submission and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is hereby requested.

Conclusion

In light of these amendments, all issues raised by the examiner to date have been addressed. As such, the claims are asserted to be in a condition for allowance. Applicant requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any matters exist that preclude issuance of a Notice of Allowance, the examiner is requested to contact the applicant's representative at the number indicated below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge any fees or credit any overpayment, particularly including any fees required under 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and/or 1.17, and any necessary extension of time fees, to deposit Account No. 07-1392.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 20, 2007

/James P. Riek/

James P. Riek
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 39,009
Tel. (919) 483-8022
Fax. (919) 483-7988